

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing coke, comprising:
mixing 100 parts by weight of mesophase pitch with 10 to 1,000 parts by weight of coal tar pitch to prepare a pitch composition, wherein the mesophase pitch is a pitch produced by polymerizing a condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon or a substance containing the condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon in the presence of hydrogen fluoride-boron trifluoride, and wherein the coal tar pitch contains substantially no quinoline insolubles (QI); and
heat-treating the pitch composition at a temperature of 500°C or higher.
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the mesophase pitch has a softening point of 150°C or higher as measured by an elevated flow tester method, and a carbonization yield of 70% or higher.
- 3.-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of mixing ~~400 parts by weight of the pitch composition with~~ 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of sulfur per 100 parts by weight of the pitch composition, with the pitch composition.

6. (Original) A process for producing an artificial graphite, comprising:
graphitizing the coke produced according to claim 1, at a temperature of
2,000°C or higher.

7. (Original) A process for producing a carbon material for a negative
electrode of non-aqueous solvent type secondary battery, comprising:
pulverizing the coke produced according to claim 1; and
graphitizing the pulverized coke at a temperature of 2,000°C or higher.

8. (Currently Amended) A pitch composition comprising 100 parts by
weight of mesophase pitch and 10 to 1,000 parts by weight of coal tar pitch, and
having an optically anisotropic content of 1 to 99% by volume, wherein the
mesophase pitch is a pitch produced by polymerizing a condensed polycyclic
hydrocarbon or a substance containing the condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon in the
presence of hydrogen fluoride-boron trifluoride, and wherein the coal tar pitch
contains substantially no quinoline insolubles (QI).

9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein 1 to 30 parts by
weight sulfur per 100 parts by weight of the pitch composition, is mixed with the pitch
composition.

11. (New) The process according to claim 7, wherein the coke is pulverized to provide a coke powder, and the coke powder is subjected to said graphitizing.

12. (New) The process according to claim 7, wherein said graphitizing forms a graphite powder.

13. (New) A composition comprising the pitch composition according to claim 8, and sulfur in an amount of 0.1 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the pitch composition.